

**From:** [Nicole Iroz Elardo](#)  
**To:** [Kron Michael C](#)  
**Subject:** Public Records Reform and School Districts  
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Michael and Task Force members -

I recently had to use the public records system to understand why my son - a highly gifted 8 year old son who is also diagnosed with high functioning autism - was not placed at a PPS school for highly gifted students. I requested the admissions review records via a FOIA during the summer to shed light on a very opaque admissions process. Some at PPS have suggested this is an inappropriate use of a public records request, but the most important information I received from it came from a form I didn't know existed and therefore didn't know to ask about. **The first batch of documents - which took 30 days to get - show my son is being illegally discriminated against because of his Special Education needs.** I'm still waiting on the remainder of the request because PPS can't manage to get me a quote (over 48 days after the initial request) for the cost of pulling the records.

In light of my experience, I urge you to reconsider your proposed reforms in the following ways:

- Do not permit **public schools** to stall on records production. PPS already stonewalls, misrepresents and refuses documents. We need to know immediately whether our children are at risk -- PPS has refused to willingly tell us.
- Rather than catalog the 500+ **exceptions**, remove some of them so that we have transparency and access to records.
- **Limit the fees.** I can afford the fees, but many low-income families cannot. Fees should not stand in the way of basic transparency.
- **Impose sanctions for failure to produce documents within timelines.** There are currently no repercussions when public entities refuse to produce records. It is all voluntary.

Thank you for your consideration.

~Nicole  
PPS Parent  
PPS Talented and Gifted Advisory Co-Chair

**Nicole Iroz-Elardo, PhD**  
[irozelardo@gmail.com](mailto:irozelardo@gmail.com)  
971.313.9160 (office)  
614.499.3103 (cell)